A PLAIN and TRUE

NARRATIVE

OF THE

1490. d. 9.

DIFFERENCES,

BETWEEN

Meſſrs. B----s,

And the MEMBERS of the

MUSICAL-CLUB,

HOLDEN AT THE

OLD-COCK, in HALIFAX,

In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

The Cloud, which, intercepting the clear Light,
Hangs o'er thy Eyes, and blunts thy mortal Sight,
I will remove ——— SPECT. Vol. II. No. 159.

Printed in the Year 1767.

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MAY

HALIFAX, Auguſt 20, 1767.

SIR,

AS I find by your laſt Letter, that the Cauſe, Manner, and Conſequence of the Difference between Mr. B——s and Sons, and the Members of the Old Cock Muſical-Club, have been miſrepreſented by them, and ſome of their Friends. I have, in Compliance with your Requeſt, therefore, ſent you a true Narrative of the whole Affair.

Sometime before his Sons came to Halifax the laſt Summer, a Complaint was made to Mr. B——s by us, the Members of the Meſſiah Club, then holden at his Houſe, that we had not ſufficient Light to perform by; tho' a ſufficient Allowance was paid to him for that Purpoſe. In order to redreſs this Grievance, the Queſtion was put, whether it would not be better to provide Candles ourſelves? it paſſed in

the affirmative, and the Preſident provided them. This Step, tho' in Conformity with an Order regularly made, drew upon the Preſident the Diſpleaſure of Mr. B——s, who treated his Character very illiberally, and loaded others with many diſreſpectful Aſperſions, who, as well as the Preſident, had been good Friends with him, and to him, for a great Number of Years. Notwithſtanding this ill Treatment received from the Father, we were reſolved to continue in Friendſhip with his Sons; if they behaved to us with any tolerable Degree of Complaiſance. Accordingly we received them with Reſpect and Joy; and flattered ourſelves, that their Education would ſuggeſt to them the Means of correcting their Father's Behaviour. Soon we perceived we were miſtaken. Their Behaviour towards us grew gradually cooler and cooler, tho', I declare, without the leaſt real, or intentional Cauſe on our Side, for that Coolneſs. Then, (contrary to the Articles of our Club) ſome of Mr. H——l's purloined Pieces were mixed with our Performances. Theſe Mr. J B. out of his great Partiality to the muſical Compiler, pronounced to be original and good.

I ſhall now paſs to the Oratorio, of which Mr. B——s's Sons had the ſole Management. This Advancement, joined to the Coolneſs mentioned above, totally transformed them from ſocial, good natured, Catch Singers, into two deſpotic Monarchs, awing and inſulting their Vaſſals and Dependents. How true this is, the following Inſtance will ſhew you. On the firſt Day the Oratorio was performed in the Church, repeated Applications were made to Mr. J. B. for ſomething to drink for the Chorus Singers, but without Succeſs. At laſt, being quite ſpent for want of a little Refreſhment, we grew more importunate in our Requeſt, and ſaid, "Sir, the Singers ſay they really cannot ſing "any longer, without ſomething to drink;" he with a ſupercilious Sneer replied, "I know "they are dry Dogs, but we muſt begin the "ſecond Act."

I make no doubt but Mr. J. B. from his pre-eminence in this publick Affair, thought he did us Honour by confidently ranking us with Dogs, as he might have placed us amongſt a leſs ſagacious Part of the brute Creation. However, raillery apart, as we only deſired what was neceſſary to refreſh, and enable us to proceed, we did

did not think we deſerved a Denial. Eſpecially, as we ſaw Wine circulating very copiouſly among the Human Species, it being an eaſy Matter to diſtinguiſh them from the Brutes, by their conſequential Looks, and unfatigued Lungs.

The Performance in the Church being over, we waited upon Mr. H. B——s, expecting to be paid for our Aſſiſtance. And tho' other Chorus Singers from Hay Chapel, &c. who were not more, if equally as uſeful, as we were, received each two Guineas for their Aſſiſtance; yet we aſked no more than each a Guinea. Perhaps, if I ſhould tell you that Mr. J. B——s had repeatedly, before the Performance in the Church, and at the Time of the Performance, been pleaſed to pronounce us the beſt Chorus Singers in England, (tho' we are not vain enough to think ourſelves ſo) you will ſay our Demand was too ſmall. However, ſmall as it was, Mr. H. B——s declined paying it: telling us, at the ſame Time, he thought it was very extravagant, and, if we intended to be paid that Sum, we muſt apply to the Truſtees for the Organ.

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Accordingly, about a Week after we did; but they had been before-hand with us. They had perſuaded the Gentlemen Truſtees, the Halifax Singers deſerved little for their Aſſiſtance. For a Weaver, a Taylor, a Whiteſmith, &c. could not earn above Eighteen-pence, or Two Shillings per Day, therefore Seven and Sixpence to each for the three Days would be quite enough. However, the Truſtees were kind enough to pay us our Demand.

Before I proceed, it will be neceſſary to tell you, that when we inſtituted the Meſſiah Club at Mr. B——s's, we engaged to continue it at that Houſe till the Organ in the Church was opened, and no longer. As it was now opened, the Club was of Courſe diſſolved. I will now proceed with the Narrative. Mr. H——l was elected Organiſt, and gave us a kind Invitation to ſup with him at Mr. B——s's, by Way of paying his Footing. We, with Pleaſure, accepted the Invitation; being deſirous to be upon good Terms with the Organiſt, and our old Friends. Previous to this Treat, we had been informed, that a Plan was laid by Mr. H——l, and Meſſrs. B——s, for eſtabliſhing a new Club, calculated ſolely for the Benefit of the Organiſt.

Being

Being aware of this, we entered into a Reſolution among ourſelves to wave, if poſſible, any Converſation upon that Subject for that Night; and for this Reaſon only, leaſt we ſhould be drawn in to ſign a Set of Articles, without having ſufficient Time to read them with Attention, and to perceive their Tendency.

With this Reſolution we waited upon Mr. H——l; but no ſooner was Supper over, and the Company ſeated, than Mr. J. B. made a Propoſal for eſtabliſhing a new Club, upon a Plan, which, he made no Doubt, would form a Band of Fifty or Sixty Performers, who would be able, in a little Time, to perform any of the Oratorios within themſelves, equal to any Band in the Kingdom; which would always be ready, without having Hands to hire at a Diſtance, and at an exorbitant Rate, whenever a public Performance was deſigned to be exhibited. He ſaid, "He would have it a free Club, open to every "one, who choſe to join, and cou'd ſing any "at all; that it would be a Nurſery for Chorus "Singers; as it would then give every one, "even the moſt Ignorant, an Opportunity of "improving themſelves." Having ſaid this, and much more to the ſame Purpoſe, and repeating

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ing his Encomiums on the accurate Performance of our reſpective Parts at the public Oratorio, he ſtopt. But as a general Silence had enſued from his beginning to ſpeak on that Subject, he thought proper to aſk, Whether or no we deſigned to form another Club at all? The Company ſtill continued ſilent. Then he put the ſame Queſtion again with ſome Degree of Warmth, and was anſwered *yes*, if upon a *proper Plan.*

Inſtead then of waiting to hear what we thought was a proper Plan, he propoſed, that the Money in the late Meſſiah Club, which was yet undivided, and the ſole Property of thoſe who had been Members thereof, ſhould be immediately laid out in purchaſing a Stock of Muſic for this intended Club, and that no Member ſhould have any Claim, or Title, to any Thing the Society ſhould ever be poſſeſſed of; ſo that all the Privilege a Member could have, was a Quart of Ale for Four-pence, if he appeared; and if he could not, or neglected to appear, he was obliged to forfeit that Sum. For was he to continue a Member Twenty Years, nay, even for Life, and in that Time pay all Forfeitures, and Penalties, the Articles would ſubject him to, he ſtill could not be intitled to any Property.

This was objected to as unreaſonable. For as a Thing of this Nature cou'd not be carried on without a continual Expence, and as many of the intended Members were poor labouring Men, with Families, it muſt certainly be a hardſhip upon them to be every Fortnight contributing, from their ſcanty Earnings, to the general Emolumen. of that Society, which they were Members of, and to which they were Contributors, but of which they could not be Proprietors. Theſe Reaſons being urged for rejecting the propoſed Plan, Mr. J. B. with very unbecoming Heat and Fury, replied, that "That "DAMNED mean Spirit of Intereſt had always "appeared in us, and, till that was rooted out, "nothing cou'd ever be done to any Senſe. "And further, that if any Member ever men-"tioned, or even thought of Intereſt, he would "STRIKE him out; for he was determined never "to be connected with a Set of Men of ſuch "baſe, and low lived Principles." To this Declaration one of us replied, "That he regarded "Intereſt as little as any Man, only he was "poor, and could not do as he wou'd; but, "if he was in his Station of Life, he would "ſhew as many Marks of a generous Spirit, "as he himſelf had ever done."

Several

Several others of the Society declared, that they never purſued it from a Motive of Intereſt, and that they had never put a Six-pence in their Pockets on that Account in their Lives; for the Collections that had formerly been made, as a Reward for their Attendance at Church as Singers, had always been ſpent at that Houſe, together with their own Money added to it on thoſe Occaſions.

Mr. J. B——s finding his Plan thus oppoſed, began to lay aſide both Reaſon and Decency, and deſcended to down right Scurrility and Abuſe. And, I ſhould much wonder, and blame the Company, had they not attempted to retort upon ſuch Language, by ſomething pert; tho', I declare ſolemnly, nothing, that could be called Scurrility, was uttered by any one of our Society. It wou'd be both tedious and unprofitable to relate every Circumſtance verbatim: only give me leave to mention this one; that thoſe very Lips, which, half an Hour before had pronounced us to be the beſt Chorus Singers in England, now told us Point-Blank, "We could ſing none at all, that we knew "nothing of the Matter, and that the Meſſiah "was the only Thing we could attempt; which "we had been taught to chatter like Parrots."

I believe none of the Company, not even thoſe, who, perhaps, were moſt capable of ſpeaking to the Purpoſe, choſe to make any Anſwer to this falſe Aſſertion; yet theſe could not eſcape abuſe; for he told the Perſon whom he had honour'd with the greateſt Share of his polite Epithets, that he deſpiſed him much leſs than thoſe who ſat lurking in Silence.

The Queſtion was then put, "To what Pur-
"poſe, or for whoſe Intereſt, wou'd it be to form
"a Club upon the above propoſed Plan?" Mr. J. B——s anſwered, "It would be the Means of
"eſtabliſhing a proper Taſte of Muſic in the
"Town, and be of the greateſt Advantage to the
"Members, who wou'd hereby attain to a great
"Proficiency in Chorus-Singing." But, when it was obſerved, the mere Character of being a good Chorus-Singer, wou'd be a ſmall equivalent to a poor Man, incumbered with a large Family, for his Time and Money expended in attaining that Character; he again gave up himſelf to Wrath and Fury; and aſſured them,
"That, if they intended to do any Thing to-
"wards the Support of their Families, by engag-
"ing in a Club of this Nature, they ſhou'd find
"themſelves greatly miſtaken; for, he was very ſure,

" ſure the Gentlemen of this Town wou'd never " favor ſo mean, and low-lived a Scheme: none " but they," he added, " Who make Muſic " their Profeſſion ought to get any Thing by it. " And as we have now an Organiſt, all public " Concerts muſt be for his Benefit *alone*, and " no other Perſon in the Town can have any " Right to a Thing of that Kind."

Here the Secret came out. An Oratorio was deſigned to be annually performed in Halifax Church, for the Benefit of their favourite Organiſt; and this Club was deſigned to be a perpetual Nurſery for Chorus Singers, in order to ſave Mr. H——l Fifty or Sixty Pounds upon every ſuch Occaſion, by having no Performers to hire at a Diſtance. The Diſcovery of this Secret cauſed us to move immediately for a Diviſion of the Money-Stock, accumulated during the Meſſiah Club: The Queſtion was put, and carried by a Majority, for we did not then think it prudent to ſuffer the little trifle we had a Right to, to be applied towards carrying the unreaſonable Plan above propoſed into Execution. Mr. J. B——s perceiving this, after breathing a Torrent of Virulence, and Scurrility, left the Company in the greateſt Rage, and ſtamping on the Ground, ſaid, " I have laid the Scoundrels low."

At

At the Time appointed for dividing our Money-Stock, we met at Mr. B——s's, and each Member received an equal Share of it; and tho' a conſiderable Part of this Stock had been accumulated by the Forfeits paid by poor Members, the Forfeits paid by Mr. B——s's Sons, by an accurate Calculation, bearing only the Proportion of Two to Seven, yet they each inſiſted on and received an equal Share with the Reſt of the Members. The Reaſon why their Proportion of Forfeits was ſo ſmall, was this: When they came down from Cambridge to Halifax, the Summer next after the Inſtitution of the Club, thoſe Members who had paid their Forfeits for Abſence, expected that theſe Gentlemen, notwithſtanding their Reſidence in Cambridge during the Winter Seaſon, would have paid theirs. But they not only refus'd to pay when aſk'd, but declar'd it was extremely unreaſonable we ſhould expect it. Now as we had an Article in this Club which obliged every Member of the Society to pay their Forfeits, without reſpect to Place or Time, (if ever they returned before the Diſſolution of the Club) and as all other Members had paid their reſpective Forfeits when abſent, we could not think it unreaſonable that theſe Gentlemen ſhould pay theirs. However,

they

they not only refuſed to pay theirs, while abſent from Halifax, but poſitively declared, if we would not enter into a verbal Agreement to excuſe them from the Penalty enjoined by that Article, (for the Article could not be annihilated) they would immediately decline any further Engagements with the Club.

The Reſult was, rather than quarrel with two Gentlemen, with whom ſome of us had been Schoolfellows, and with whom moſt, if not all of us, had lived in Friendſhip and Familiarity, and for whom we all had the higheſt Regard; we not only agreed to excuſe their Forfeits already due, but alſo entered into an unanimous verbal Agreement, to excuſe them for the future, while from Halifax, preſuming that Generoſity and common Juſtice would prevent them taking equal Shares.

Soon after the Diviſion of the Stock abovemention'd, Mr. J. B——s returned to Cambridge, and left his Brother behind; from whoſe good Senſe and mild Deportment, we expected a more open and generous Treatment, if any further Attempts ſhould be made to form another Club: Tho' after the recent Heats and Fermentations

tations betwixt us, there was little Room to expect, that any Overtures of that Kind would be made. However from a Deſire, I believe, principally to promote the Organiſt's Intereſt, and conſequentially their own, they made a freſh Propoſal for eſtabliſhing a new Club.

Accordingly a few Days before the Rev. Mr. B's Departure for Cambridge, we received an Invitation from Mr. H——l, to attend Mr B's, to conſult about, and form a Club, upon a Plan agreeable to ourſelves. We readily accepted the Invitation, and met at the appointed Place and Time; when, to our great Surprize, inſtead of meeting to be conſulted in forming Articles for a new Club, we found a SET not only already drawn and fairly tranſcribed, but even more unreaſonable, and arbitrary than thoſe propoſed by Mr. J. B——s at the Firſt Meeting. Theſe Articles were preſented to us by the Rev. Mr. B——s ſigned with his own Name, his Father's, Mr. H——l's, and ſome others, and recommended to us by him in theſe Words, *Gentlemen peruſe theſe, they are very good Articles*: Being read over, ſeveral of the Company made their Objections, to ſuch Clauſes as appeared to them unreaſonable; one of which was, that the only Quali-

Qualification neceſſary to become a Member of this new intended Club, was to be an uſeful Performer; and that the Preſident ſhould be the only Perſon to judge of his Abilities. This was objected to by ſeveral, from theſe Motives, viz. that our Deſign in entering into a Muſic-Club, was purely to have an Opportunity of ſpending a few leiſure Hours agreeably, in that laudable Amuſement. But we apprehended a Club upon that Foundation, where a Muſical-Talent was the only Qualification required, to recommend a Candidate, and where the Candidate's Knowledge, even in that, was left to the arbitrary Determination of the Organiſt, who was to be perpetual Preſident, would not anſwer the End deſign'd; for by this Clauſe, the moſt rude, litigious, and unſociable Men, if agreeable to the Preſident, might be introduced, without our having a Right to oppoſe their Admiſſion: and as Mr. H——l was free enough to tell us, that he would in a very little Time, encreaſe the Club to Forty or Fifty Members, from the Country adjacent, and admit Perſons, whom we well knew were abſolute Strangers to Performances of this Nature, and conſequently would require a great deal of training, as well as ſwell the Number, to a Magnitude much ſuperior to the

Size of the Room, deſigned for the Purpoſe of practiſing in; (though, I believe, not at all too large for the ultimate End deſigned, I mean the annual Oratorios for this Gentleman's Benefit,) we were induced to think, that Labour, Toil and Confuſion, would be the only Fruits ariſing from this promiſcuous Group of Performers. We therefore deſired this Article might be altered, and that no Perſon ſhould be admitted a Member but by the Conſent of a Majority. This was refuſed to be complied with. We likewiſe deſired the Article which made the Club perpetual, and allowed no Property to the Members, might be altered, by having it limited, and making every Member thereof a Proprietor of the Stock. This was flatly refuſed alſo; and we were told, there ſhould not a Letter in them be altered; ſo if we choſe to ſign them, we might, if not, they did not doubt of having a Club without us. This Declaration put an end to all Treaty, and a total Separation enſued. Thoſe of us who were Singers in the Church, promiſed to attend the Organ Gallery as uſual, and deſired that the Differences with Regard to the Club, might not extend thither.

Very

Very ſoon after this, the Rev. Mr. B. returned to Cambridge, and in a few Days afterwards we applied to his Father for a Diviſion of the Remainder of our Stock, conſiſting entirely of Muſic, tranſcribed into ſingle Parts; which only could be uſeful to a Muſical Society. And the moſt advantageous Method that could be taken for all Sides, was for ſome one Perſon, or Society, to purchaſe the Whole, at ſuch a Price as ſhould be agreed on by all Parties concerned; accordingly a Valuation was made, and Mr. B (agreeable to his Sons Orders) made the firſt Offer of purchaſing; but we, intending to form another Club, did not chuſe to ſell. He perceiving this, complied to ſell his, and his Sons Shares, which we purchaſed: But on Delivery of the Books, he kept back the Organ Baſs of the Meſſiah, which, he told us, was not the Property of the Club, his Sons having paid the Perſon who tranſcribed it at Cambridge; tho' we had Reaſons for believing it was made a Preſent of to the Club; however, certain it is, one of the Members applied to his Friend at Cambridge for it, and it was ſent to him for the Uſe of the Club, and, as he imagin'd, gratis.

Be this as it will, the keeping it from us, made all the other Parts lame. But we ſoon remedied this Defect. We then removed our Stock of Muſic from Mr. B—'s, to the great Room at the Old-Cock, as a proper and commodious Place for that Purpoſe. And in a few Days afterwards we erected an Organ, and appointed a Night for our aſſembling to ſign our Articles, which were drawn up agreeable to ourſelves. This being done, the Meſſiah was performed the ſame Night, in the Manner we had been accuſtom'd to do it at Mr. B——'s.

I cannot here omit taking Notice, that the Members of the new Club at Mr. B——'s fixed on the very ſame Night to begin and hold their Meetings that we did at the Old-Cock; tho' we had put ours off one Week, on Purpoſe that the Meetings might fall on different Nights. The Reaſon for putting ours off, was not only to give thoſe Members of our Club an Opportunity of attending *that* at Mr. B——'s (for ſeveral of them had repeatedly declared their Intentions of doing ſo) but, alſo to be a Means of encouraging Muſic, and promoting Friendſhip and good Neighbourhood.

Nor

Nor ought I to omit noticing Mr. H——l's diſingenuous Behaviour, who went to ſome of the Parents of ſuch Boys as belonged to our Society, and endeavoured to diſſuade them from ſuffering their Children to come amongſt us; telling them *We were a Set of debauched Fellows, fit for nothing but to corrupt the Morals of Youth*; and at the ſame Time, *deſired they wou'd ſend them to his Club at Mr. B——'s, where he would keep a ſtrict Eye over them, and take the greateſt Care of their Morals: for that was a Club which would be frequented by Gentlemen of Character, and would undoubtedly flouriſh.* Theſe were Proceedings we did not expect from the polite Behaviour of this Gentleman, whom we now began to entertain a very different Opinion of from what we had done before, and were half tempted to view him in the Light of a deſigning, ſelf intereſted Hypocrite. " His Letter of Thanks to " his Friends in Halifax in general, and to the " Truſtees for the Organ in particular, the Aug- " mentation of his Salary in Conſequence of that " Letter; his Journey to Bath, and Requeſt to " employ a Deputy, till a proper Perſon could " be found to ſucceed him; his Attempt to aug- " ment his Salary ſtill more, and to return after " he had reſigned the Place, or to ſend his Bro-

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" ther to be Organiſt here," are Circumſtances which do not properly belong to this Narrative; otherwiſe I ſhould have urged them as Proofs of his Selfiſhneſs and Hypocriſy.

Since November 1766, we have continued our Meetings regularly at the Old-Cock every Fortnight, and the Money which has been collected by the Sale of our Annual-Tickets, and at the Door from Non Subſcribers, which has been much more than we expected, has conſtantly been laid out in purchaſing and tranſcribing Muſic, and providing Inſtruments and Neceſſaries for the Uſe of the Club.

I mention this Circumſtance in order to undeceive a great many, who are led to believe, by an invidious Report, raiſed, and induſtriouſly propagated by our Enemies, that we hold our Meetings from a Motive of Gain, and perform for Hire; this Report is ſo far from being true, that it is diametrically oppoſite to the Plan of our Articles, for each Member pays Four-pence every Club-Night; and we admit the Public to hear us at Six-pence each, or, if any Perſon takes an Annual-Ticket, the Price of which is Eight Shillings, it admits him Twenty-four Nights

Nights in the Year; which only amounts to Four-pence per Night: Beſides, we neither deſire, nor expect the Public to frequent our Meetings from a Motive of contributing to *our* Emolument, but entirely for *their own* Entertainment and Amuſement. When our Performances ceaſe to be agreeable or entertaining, we ſhall not wonder to ſee ourſelves deſerted.

It has alſo been ſaid by ſome that we get a deal of Money, and that the Stock in the Club muſt be large; to which I anſwer, that our laſt Purchaſe of a new Pair of Kettle-Drums has more than exhauſted our Stock; but a Circumſtance of this Kind will not hinder us from purſuing our Purpoſe, and procuring ſuch other Inſtruments, as will contribute to make our Performances more compleat and pleaſing to ourſelves, as well as to the Public. And as a Proof of this, we intend 'ere long, to purchaſe a Pair of French-Horns; and any agreeable, ſociable Perſon, who can, or chuſes to learn to play upon that Inſtrument, will be readily admitted a Member of our Society, agreeable to the Terms ſtipulated by the Articles.

I cannot close this Narrative without taking some Notice of the Conduct of Messrs. B——s, since they came last from Cambridge to Halifax. Tho' no Offence has been given intentionally to either of them, by any one of our Society, yet I wish there was not Reason to say they have thrown many ungenteel, and false Aspersions upon the Society in general, and on several of our Members in particular. Nay more; they have done that, which to me appears an unneighbourly and unchristian Act. Mr. J——n, the O-g-n-st of W—ef—d, wrote to J—s W—n, who plays the First Violin in our Club, to know what he would have for his Assistance at the Oratorios, to be performed in that Church the 26th, 27th, and 28th of this Month.

Now tho' J—s W——n, kept this Letter a profound Secret, yet by the Return of the same Post, a Letter was sent from Messrs. B——s, to Mr. J——n, requiring him to send them a List of the intended Performers. He sent one accordingly, and they returned it with J——s W——n's Name struck out, accompanied with a Letter declaring, *that if he was concerned in the Band, they would not.* This peremptory Declaration, obliged Mr. J——n to reply to J—s W——n's

W——n's Anſwer, (which Anſwer, Mr J——n thought very reaſonable, and has ſince declared ſo,) *that he was very ſorry to find, after having given him, and himſelf the Trouble of Writing, that he could not have him in their Band, as ſome of the principal Performers, in a Letter to him had declared, they would not be concerned in any Band where he was.*

I could produce other Inſtances of their ill Nature, and Unforgivingneſs, ſimilar to this, but I forbear, and ſhall only ſay, this is a Kind of Treatment which we neither expected, nor, we flatter ourſelves, deſerved from them. For, I ſolemnly declare for myſelf, and I am perſuaded I may ſafely make the ſame Declaration for moſt, if not all the Members of our Society, that if theſe Gentlemen wanted any Favour within our Power, we ſhould not only grant it readily, but with Pleaſure.

The Number of Circumſtances, neceſſary to be related, in order to give you a true Idea of the Cauſe, Manner, and Conſequence of the Difference above ſpecified, muſt plead my Excuſe for the Length of this Narrative. I ſhall conclude it with the two following Lines from Mr. Pope.

Worth makes the Man, and want of it the Fellow;
The Reſt is all but Leather or Prunella.

And beg leave to ſubjoin the few following Queries by way of Poſtſcript,

And am, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

1. FROM what View could Mr. B——, ſo vehemently inſiſt that the Preſident was a Scoundrel, for complying with his Duty in ordering Candles? That being the firſt Time he had ever been honour'd with his Scurrility, on any Occaſion.

2. Was it not promoted in a great Meaſure from a Jealouſy of having his Benefits diminiſh'd on that Article?

3. Why ſhould Meſſrs. B——s raiſe a Diſpute, and carry it into a Quarrel, becauſe only, we did not think fit to comply with their Articles?

4. Had we not a Right to reject Articles, which appeared to us unreaſonable, partial, and prejudicial to our Families; and, can we be juſtly blamed for planning and ſigning ſuch Articles,

ticles, as will advance a Stock of Muſic at a little Expence ?

5. Have Meſſrs. B——s a Charter to monopolize Judgment in Muſic ?

6. Does it not appear from a general Survey of their Behaviour, that they will not live in Friendſhip with that Man, who thinks differently from them ?

7. Does it not appear from a like Survey, that they think no one has a Right to accommodate a Muſical-Club in Halifax but their Father ?

8. Did we reſpect Perſons, when we choſe the Old-Cock to convene at, when a Member of our Club was able to accommodate us ?

9. Do we merit verbal Perſecution from Meſſrs. B——s, for ſpeaking our Sentiments freely, and acting prudently, in a free Country ?

10. Would it not become a Man of Parts and Acquirements to ſupport his Greatneſs with Affability and good Nature, rather than by treating his Neighbours with Diſdain, Revenge and Abuſe ?

11. Suppoſe the Singers were guilty of affronting Meſſrs. B——'s ONE WHOLE YEAR SINCE

(the above Narrative ſhews whether they were or not), I ſay, ſuppoſe they were, does it become a Gentleman, and much more a Teacher and intended Teacher of God's Word, to bear Malice ſo long? Plato ſays, "That "Man is unhappy whoſe Anger ſees two "Suns."

12. Would it have been any Detriment, or Diſgrace, to Meſſrs. B——s, to have performed in Concert with Neighbours, whom they had been pleaſed repeatedly to pronounce the beſt Chorus Singers in England, rather than with Strangers at Wakefield?

13. What Manner of Men muſt they be, who inſiſted, that Mr. J—bſ—n ſhould not engage J. W—lſ—n to play at the Oratorios at Wakefield, and thereby deprived a poor Man of an Opportunity to earn Two Guineas, towards a Livelihood for his Wife, and a Number of ſmall Children?

14. How can the Rev. Mr. A——t and Son be excuſed from Cenſure, for interfering with the Buſineſs of J. W—lſ—n?

15. Upon the Whole, was this acting like either Gentlemen or Chriſtians?

F I N I S.